THE NEW 52!
DC COMICS
22
NIGHTWING
AGAINST THE MAN WHO MURDERED HIS PARENTS!
KYLE HIGGINS
WILL CONRAD
SEP 2013
RATED T TEEN
DCCOMICS.COM

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.
DICK GRAYSON'S APARTMENT.
PUT HIM DOWN! NOW!
I'M STILL GOING THROUGH THE FOOTAGE...
...BUT WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR IS DOABLE. TOTALLY.
I MEAN, THERE'S A WHOLE SECTION OF NIGHTWING AND PRANKSTER WORKING TOGETHER.
THEN CUT OUT THE PARTS THAT DON'T FOCUS ON THAT, PACKAGE THE NEW PIECE TO YOUR EDITOR...
...AND I GUARANTEE YOUR DAYS OF CARRYING TRIPODS ARE OVER.
NOT TO SOUND UNGRATEFUL, DETECTIVE MORGAN...BUT YOU COULD HAVE GIVEN THIS FOOTAGE TO ANYONE.
WHY ME?
PEOPLE WHO GET AHEAD DON'T WASTE TIME QUESTIONING OPPORTUNITIES, MICHAEL.
THEY'RE TOO BUSY MAKING THE MOST OF THE ONES THEY'RE GIVEN.
OTHERWISE, THEY GET PASSED OVER FOR SOMEONE ELSE. UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING?
YEAH...I UNDERSTAND...
It's easy to be dazzled by bright lights.

CITY HALL.
Which is why we loved 'em in the circus.
At least, I did.
In this day and age, where presentation is so important, a lot of shows worry about the audience seeing mistakes.
Except when the lights turn on, the audience isn't looking for mistakes.
They're looking to be captivatedx.
SO THIS IS WHERE IT ALL HAPPENS, HUH? FUNNY...
...I FIGURED THE MAYOR WOULD HAVE A BIGGER OFFICE.
So, if you're trying to hide something...

DC COMICS™ PRESENTS:

NIGHTWING® IN SHOWTIME

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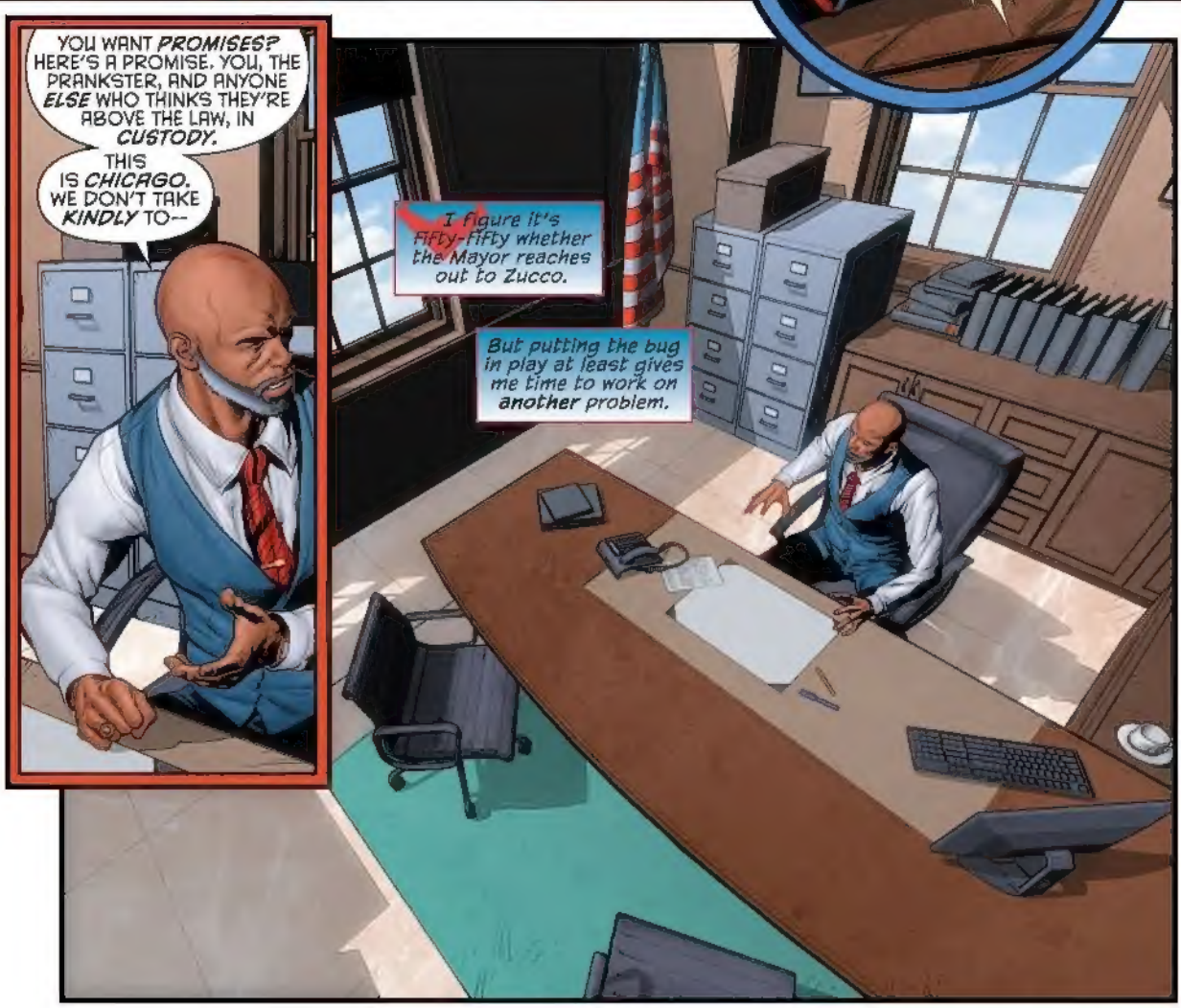
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PÉREZ

THESE WINDOWS DON'T EVEN OPEN. HOW DID YOU...
BOY, IF I HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY TIME I HEARD THAT.
I'D HAVE LIKE, SIX BUCKS.
NO NEED TO CALL THE CAVALRY, MAYOR COLE. THIS WILL BE QUICK.
YOU'RE PROTECTING TONY ZUCCO, AND I WANT HIM.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
OH, I'M SORRY, I KEEP FORGETTING--
--IT'S BILLY LESTER NOW.
AH, THAT NAME GOT YOUR ATTENTION.
NOW, IT COULD JUST BE A COINCIDENCE THAT ZUCCO WAS IN THE SAME PRISON AT THE SAME TIME AS YOUR BROTHER.
AND IT COULD BE AN EVEN BIGGER COINCIDENCE THAT HE JUST HAPPENS TO WORK FOR YOU NOW, UNDER AN ALIAS.
MAN, I HATE COINCIDENCES. DON'T YOU?
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK BILLY IS, BUT TO COME IN HERE AND THREATEN ME, NIGHTWING, WITH THIS CITY'S HISTORY WITH MASKS...
AS CLICHÉD AS IT MIGHT SOUND, THIS ISN'T A THREAT, MAYOR COLE. IT'S A PROMISE.
THAT'S WHAT YOU POLITICIANS DEAL IN, RIGHT?

THE LONGER YOU HIDE ZUCCO, THE LONGER I STAY IN TOWN.
AND THE MORE I LOOK INTO *YOU.*


YOU WANT *PROMISES?* HERE'S A PROMISE. YOU, THE PRANKSTER, AND ANYONE *ELSE* WHO THINKS THEY'RE ABOVE THE LAW, IN *CUSTODY.*
THIS IS *CHICAGO.* WE DON'T TAKE *KINDLY* TO--
I figure it's fifty-fifty whether the Mayor reaches out to Zucco.
But putting the bug in play at least gives me time to work on ***another*** *problem.*

WICKER PARK.
With the Prankster escaping last night, I need to figure out how to stop him from hacking my suit again.
And in a total stroke of luck, my new roommate also happens to be a cyber security specialist.
What are the odds?
ACTUALLY, DICK, THAT'S NOT WHAT I DO. LIKE, AT ALL.
IT'S NOT?
PHONE SECURITY? NO. THAT'S LIKE, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ROBBING A BANK AND BREAKING INTO A MUSEUM.
BUT ISN'T COMPUTER CODING ALL THE SAME?
... THAT MAKES ME LITERALLY WANT TO FACE-PALM.
SORRY, JOEY, I DON'T MEAN TO GENERALIZE. I'M JUST... KINDA JUGGLING A LOT OF PLATES RIGHT NOW. I WAS HOPING I'D BE IN LUCK ON THIS ONE.
HOW GOES THE WHOLE FAMILY THING, ANYWAY?
IT'S...A WORK IN PROGRESS.
YOU THINK IT'LL END WELL?

THE WAY I PICTURE IT, IT DOES
WELL, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO AVOID YOUR HYPOTHETICAL PHONE HACKING SITUATION--WHICH, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'D BE WORRIED ABOUT ONE--THERE'S ALWAYS ONE THING YOU COULD DO.
WHAT'S THAT?
TURN IT OFF.
THAT'S... ACTUALLY A GREAT IDEA.
HEY, WHA' KINDA 'OOMATE 'OULD I BE...

"...IF I 'EREN'T 'ELPFULP"
PUT HIM DOWN! NOW!
THIS IS FANTASTIC. TRULY, TRULY FANTASTIC.
LATER.
OFFICES OF THE CHICAGO TIMES...
THE KID GOT LUCKY, TED.
WHAT HE GOT IS TWO AND A HALF MILLION VIEWS IN THE LAST HOUR. AND THE NETWORKS ARE RUNNING IT.
THE PAPER HASN'T HAD THAT KIND OF SPREAD IN YEARS.
BUT LOOK AT IT! THE DAMN THING'S SO OUT OF FOCUS!
THE ADVERTISERS DON'T CARE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE, JARED. THEY JUST WANT IT TO MOVE.
LOOK, MICHAEL, DON'T TAKE THIS PERSONALLY, OKAY?
YOU KNOW I THINK YOU'RE TALENTED. BUT YOU'VE GOT A LOT TO LEARN.
AND THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN FOR YOU RIGHT NOW IS SUCCESS.
UH, OKAY...
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM. ANYTIME SOMEBODY CAN CATCH A MASK LIKE THIS, MUCH LESS TWO, IT'S DAMN IMPRESSIVE.
NOW...
...DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT AGAIN?
"ALL OF YOU WANT SOMETHING DIFFERENT."

ACROSS TOWN...
SOME OF YOU ARE HERE BECAUSE OF THE MONEY I'M OFFERING...
...OTHERS, BECAUSE YOU BELIEVE IN THE CAUSE.
OTHERS STILL, BECAUSE--I ASSUME--YOU SIMPLY WANT TO DESTROY THINGS.
TO EACH OF YOU I SAY...
...WELCOME.
"YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH I'M NOT MISSING THE CITY..."

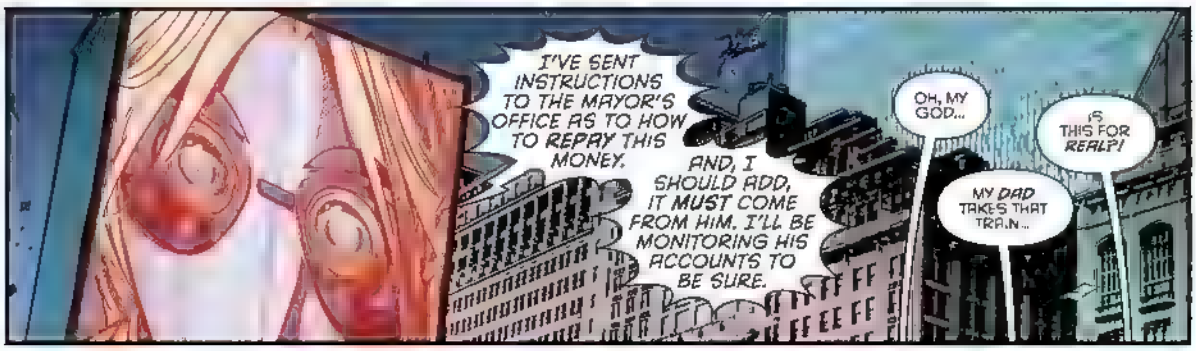
LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN...
...AND THE FACT THAT YOU ALMOST WENT A FULL DAY WITHOUT CHECKING IN WITH THE MAYOR?
THAT'S PROGRESS.
I'LL BE HONEST, NANCY, IT FEELS WEIRD NOT TO BE IN THE OFFICE.
EVERYONE DESERVES TIME OFF, BILLY. GOD KNOWS YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR THE MAYOR...A FEW WEEKS WITH YOUR FAMILY IS THE LEAST HE CAN DO FOR YOU.
GIVE IT BACK!
NO! IT'S MY TURN!
YOU STOLE IT!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
HE STOLE MY ROBOT!
I'M SORRY...I THINK YOUR SON TOOK MY SON'S ACTION FIGURE.
BRIAN? IS THAT TRUE?
IT'S NOT HIS TURN ANYMORE! IT'S MY TURN!
DID YOU TAKE SOMETHING THAT ISN'T YOURS?
BUT IT'S MY TURN, DAD...

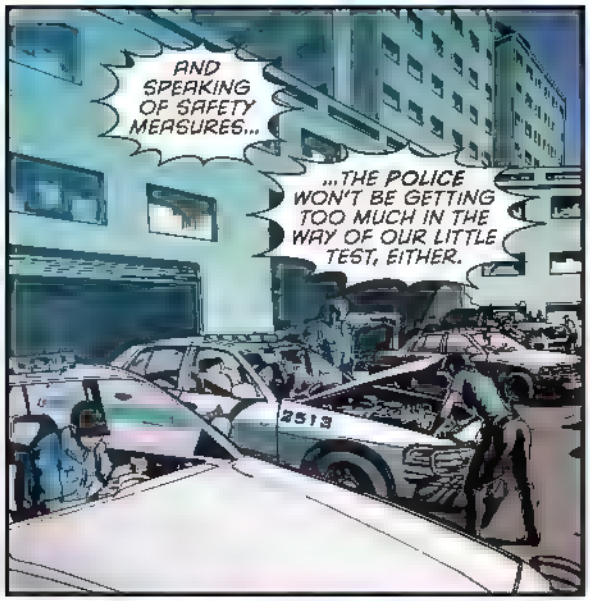
YOU NEED TO APOLOGIZE, RIGHT NOW.
OR NO MORE POOL TODAY.
DADDY...
YOU WANT TO BE A GROWNUP, DON'T YOU? WELL, GROWNUPS TAKE RESPONSIB LITY WHEN THEY DO SOMETHING WRONG.
I'M SORRY I TOOK YOUR ROBOT.
-SNIF- THANKS.
DO WE NEED TO GO BACK TO THE ROOM?
I TH NK WE'RE OKAY. WE'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE A LITTLE T ME OUT, AND THEN WE CAN GO BACK IN THE WA--
ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE WE'VE HAD ENOUGH WATER FOR ONE DAY.
BUT DADDY, I 'PO.OG ZED!
BILLY? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
FINE. JUST... SOMETHING I FORGOT TO CHECK .N W.TH THE MAYOR ABOUT...
You can call Mayor Cole a lot of things, but lazy isn't one of them.

MILLENNIUM PARK. LATER
I've listened to eight hours of the Mayor's day and the guy still hasn't stopped to eat.
My blood sugar's plummeting just thinking about it.
DUDE NEEDS TO INVEST IN SOME PROTEIN SHAKES...
YOU STILL THINK THIS IS GONNA "BLOW OVER," WALLACE?
SO NOT ONLY IS NIGHTWING HUNTING ME BUT NOW HE'S WORKING WITH THE PRANKSTER.
THAT'S GREAT, WALLACE. ABSOLUTELY GREAT. IF I WAS THERE--
Even distorted by a speakerphone, I recognize the voice immediately.
BUT YOU'RE NOT AND THAT'S THE POINT. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN AND LET US HANDLE THIS, BILLY
Come on...gimme something, guys. Make this all worth...
...it?
FOR THOSE OF YOU UNFAMILIAR, MY NAME IS THE PRANKSTER.
AND NO...
...IT'S NOT JUST YOUR TELEVISION.
OH, NO...

I COME TO YOU TONIGHT BECAUSE, LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE...
...I BELIEVE THERE ARE FEW THINGS WORSE THAN HYPOCRITES AND LIARS.
PEOPLE WITH DARK SECRETS, DETERMINED TO KEEP THEM FROM COMING INTO THE SPOTLIGHT.
AS IT TURNS OUT, ALL OF THESE QUALITIES CAN BE FOUND IN OUR BELOVED LEADER.
YOU SEE, THE "HONORABLE" MAYOR WALLACE COLE IS NOT WHO WE THINK HE IS.
FOR EXAMPLE--HE'S BEEN HARBORING A WANTED MURDERER NAMED TONY ZUCCO FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS.
AND AS IF BEING A FIRST-RATE LIAR WEREN'T ENOUGH, MAYOR COLE IS ALSO A FIRST-RATE THIEF.
THE NUMBER YOU SEE ON YOUR SCREEN IS THE AMOUNT MAYOR COLE HAS STOLEN FROM YOU, THE PEOPLE OF CHICAGO.
AFTER ALL, IT TAKES A LOT OF MONEY TO CREATE A SAFE HAVEN FOR WANTED FELONS LIKE ZUCCO.
SO, WHILE MAYOR COLE HAS MADE A CAREER OFF PROMOTING "THE SAFETY OF CHICAGO," I ASK YOU--
U.S. Masterlace Field
$52,067,285
--HOW MUCH SAFER DO YOJ THINK WE WOULD BE WITH AN EXTRA 52 MILLION?
WELL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT.
DEET.

THE CORNER OF LAKE AND STATE.
FWOOM
SCREEE-KOOOOM


I'VE SENT INSTRUCTIONS TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE AS TO HOW TO REPAY THIS MONEY.
AND, I SHOULD ADD, IT MUST COME FROM HIM. I'LL BE MONITORING HIS ACCOUNTS TO BE SURE.
OH, MY GOD...
...IS THIS FOR REAL?!
MY DAD TAKES THAT TRAIN...


AND SPEAKING OF SAFETY MEASURES...
...THE POLICE WON'T BE GETTING TOO MUCH IN THE WAY OF OUR LITTLE TEST, EITHER.
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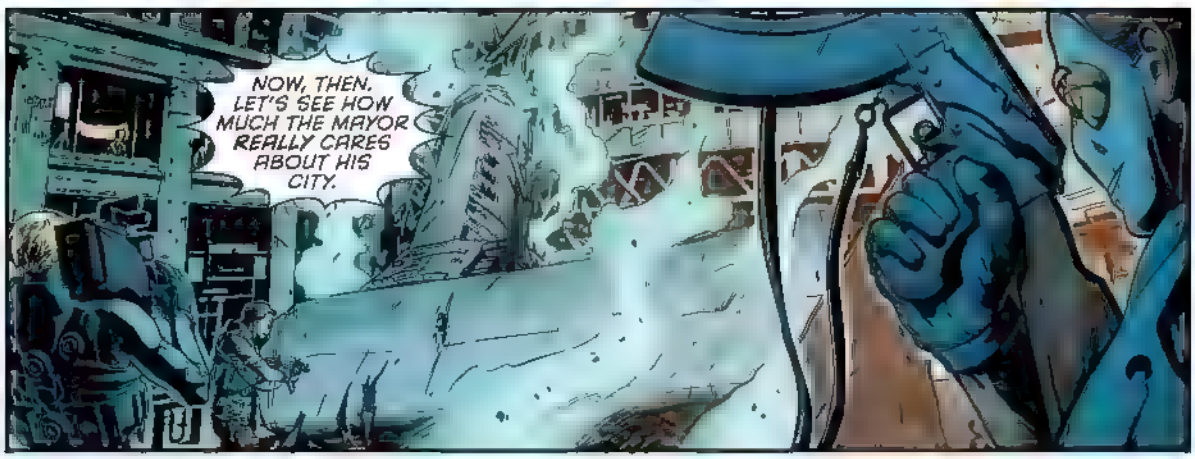
NOT WITH ALL THEIR VEHICLES HACKED AND STRANDED.

THE GAME IS SIMPLE AND PURE. UNTIL MAYOR COLE COMPLIES, YOU--THE PEOPLE OF CHICAGO--WILL SUFFER.

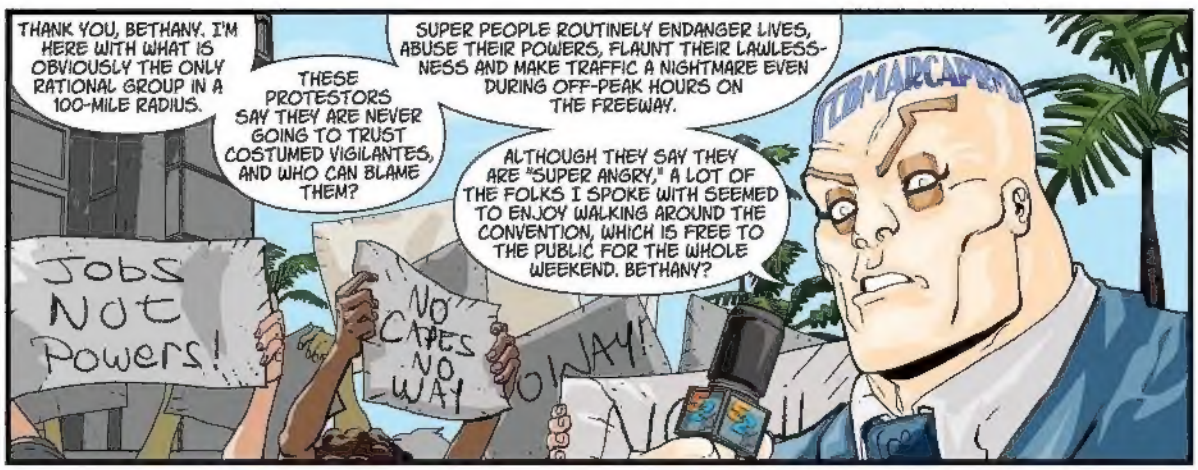

NOW, THEN. LET'S SEE HOW MUCH THE MAYOR REALLY CARES ABOUT HIS CITY.

HEY, LOOK AT THAT.
NO, NO, NO...
This is my fault.
I had the Prankster beat. All I had to do was get him to the cops.
NNNNN...
PING
PING
On man, what did I do?

THERE AREN'T--
OOF!
NEARLY ENOUGH ADVERBS--
GHH!
--FOR HOW BADLY YOU GUYS JUST SCREWED UP.
NNGH!
YOU'VE GOT FIVE SECONDS TO TELL ME WHERE THE PRANKSTER IS--
ARHH!
OR I SWEAR TO GOD--
UHNN!
YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO WEAR A MASK!
I DON'T KNOW! HE SAYS SOMETH'N' DIFFERENT TO ALL OF US! THAT'S THE POINT!

"HE COULD BE ANYWHERE!"
THIS IS NOTHING PERSONAL.
IT'S JUST THE PRECEDENT THAT'S BEEN SET. INNOCENT PEOPLE GETTING HURT WHILE THE MAYOR PROFITS.
IF IT HELPS, YOU CAN THINK OF YOURSELVES AS THE FIRST TOOLS OF CHANGE. AFTER ALL...
...HOW LONG WOULD YOU STAND BY A MAYOR WHO LETS A ROOM FULL OF COPS DIE?
GET. BENT.
HM. REGARDLESS, THE FACTS ARE THE FACTS.
YOU LIVE IF THE MAYOR PAYS BACK THE MONEY. IF HE DOESN'T...
...THEN YOU LIVE AS LONG AS YOU CAN STAY STILL.
NEXT ISSUE: WINDY CITY GONE WILD!

Welcome to SHACACC!
WELCOME TO CHANNEL 52'S ON-THE-SCENE COVERAGE OF THE FIRST-ANNUAL SUPER HERO APPRECIATION CONVENTION AND COSTUME CONTEST! I'M AQUA-BETHANY SNOW ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE C52 TEAM, AND WE'RE COMING TO YOU LIVE FROM THE METROPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER!
WHILE MANY DISTRUST THESE BEINGS OF POTENTIAL MASS DESTRUCTION, A GROWING NUMBER OF CITIZENS HAVE COME TO EMBRACE THEM AS OUR SUPER-PROTECTORS.
IT'S THOSE LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SHACACC EVENT, IN HOPES OF PRESENTING A MORE POSITIVE POINT OF VIEW.
BUT BEFORE WE DIVE INTO THOSE GOOD VIBES, LET'S CHECK IN WITH CALENDAR MAN WHO IS OUTSIDE AMONG A LARGE GROUP PROTESTING THE EVENT.


THANK YOU, BETHANY. I'M HERE WITH WHAT IS OBVIOUSLY THE ONLY RATIONAL GROUP IN A 100-MILE RADIUS.
THESE PROTESTORS SAY THEY ARE NEVER GOING TO TRUST COSTUMED VIGILANTES, AND WHO CAN BLAME THEM?
SUPER PEOPLE ROUTINELY ENDANGER LIVES, ABUSE THEIR POWERS, FLAUNT THEIR LAWLESSNESS AND MAKE TRAFFIC A NIGHTMARE EVEN DURING OFF-PEAK HOURS ON THE FREEWAY.
ALTHOUGH THEY SAY THEY ARE "SUPER ANGRY," A LOT OF THE FOLKS I SPOKE WITH SEEMED TO ENJOY WALKING AROUND THE CONVENTION, WHICH IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND. BETHANY?
Jobs Not Powers!
No Capes No Way!

THANKS FOR THAT INSIGHTFUL REPORT, CALENDAR MAN!
WELL, WOULDN'T BE SHACACC WITHOUT THE COSTUME CONTEST! THIS "SUPER HALLOWEEN" HAS DRAWN A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF FANS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO WANT TO SHOW OFF THEIR OWN TAKE ON WHAT THE HEROES WEAR!
LET'S SEE WHAT REPORTERS VARTOX AND A. BUG ARE UP TO. HOW'S IT GOING, BOYS?!

I TELL YOU WHAT, BETHANY... THIS IS THE STRANGEST PLACE I HAVE EVER BEEN IN, AND I'VE BEEN TO SOME DEEPLY STRANGE PLACES! I MEAN... LAST WEEK A TALKING MONKEY DRESSED AS SHERLOCK HOLMES THREW A BOTTLE OF WHISKY AT ME. A REAL MONKEY! THROWING REAL WHISKY! AND THIS HERE IS STILL HARDER TO FIGURE OUT.

I KNOW THAT IT'S AWESOME, BUT I CAN'T PUT MY FINGER ON WHY.
IS IT THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY?
THE INNOVATION?
AHHHHH. SURE. I SEE.
I GUESS THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING HERE AT SHACACC IS THAT YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SEE NEXT.
BACK TO YOU, BETHANY.
WOW, BUG! LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A #1 FAN!
HEY--WAS VARTOX DRESSED LIKE A HOTDOG FOR ANY PARTICULAR REASON?
WE'LL HAVE TO SEE IF THAT'S LIKE A SPACE SAUSAGE OUTFIT OR IF HE'S JUST CONFUSED AGAIN.
MORE SHACACC COMING UP NEXT ON CHANNEL 52!
Welcome to
SHACACC!

NAHGA